

Hawaii Marine Lifestyles

Serving pure aloha in every bite

Story and photos by
Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

HONOLULU — Enjoy shave ice and do something nice for the community at Uncle Clay's House of Pure Aloha.

The shop, also known simply as HOPA, is rooted in neighborhood involvement and giving back to the community. Co-owners Bronson Chang and his uncle Clayton Chang, who was the long-time owner of sweets shop Doe Fang Co. in the Aina Haina neighborhood, run the store.

"Shaved ice will always be a part of ethnic Hawaiian food culture, but I would say we deserve the Hawaii-made label even more because we use authentic flavors from locally grown ingredients," Bronson Chang said.

All of the shop's syrups are made from fresh fruits and purees using produce supplied from local farms, including Otsuji Farms in neighboring Hawaii Kai. Flavors include strawberry, pineapple, green tea, acai, and even a house blend flavor of kale and spinach called kalespin. Fresh fruits and toppings, including Tahitian vanilla ice cream, are also available.

Although regulars enjoy the fresh and natural taste of the sweet treats, many come back for something more.

"The people who work here make this the best place to get shave ice," said customer Rytwin Imua Lee. "Seeing Bronson and his uncle Clay, you really feel like you are part of the HOPA ohana."

Lee said he loves the HOPA pledge, which is featured inside the store and encourages customers to live with aloha. Lee and other regular customer Hileah Reigh said they try to live by the "Uncle Clay" way.

"'Uncle Clay' is an excellent host," Reigh said. "He is always introducing customers to each other. You want to spread the aloha."

The uncle and nephew team said their family business is based on spreading aloha with their products and by their involvement in the community. In previous efforts, the store has supported local youth empowerment groups including the Kupu and a Kalani High School sustainability program, Kipuka Kalaniiki.

"I'm a huge supporter of social entrepreneurship and using entrepreneurial thinking to create a business or organization with a significant impact in bettering the community," Bronson Chang said.

The many faces of 'Uncle Clay,' and now also Bronson Chang's clients, are part of the community and decorate the walls of the shop. These faces belong to the people who come to the shop to enjoy an iconic Hawaiian snack.

"What has stayed the same for me is how we treat every soul who enters the door," Clayton Chang said. "We hope everyone treats each other as ohana or family, with personal respect and pure aloha."



Clayton Chang, who is co-founder of Uncle Clay's House of Pure Aloha, visits with several customers as they enjoy his store's natural shave ice. Before opening the store in June 2011, 'Uncle Clay' ran the sweets shop Doe Fang Co. in the Aina Haina neighborhood. He and his nephew now serve shave ice with flavors including milk chocolate, green tea, strawberry and pineapple.

Uncle Clay's House of Pure Aloha

820 West Hind Drive, #116 in Aina Haina Shopping Center
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

<http://www.houseofpurealoha.com>

373-5111

Monday to Thursday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Bronson Chang, who is co-founder and partner for Uncle Clay's House of Pure Aloha, serves up some shaved ice to customer Rytwin Imua Lee. The store is a family-owned business between Chang and his uncle, Clayton Chang.



PASS

IN

REVIEW

Your weekly guide to the best aspects of entertainment

Welcome to the Pass In Review, your number one source for cinema, music, video game, book and product reviews. The Pass In Review crew consists of more than 10 critics, each with their own idea of what makes a movie, album, game, product or book great. So be sure to take advantage of the Better Know A Critic section, which spotlights this week’s critics to better help you choose the critic with opinions most like your own. Using our breakthrough four-point scale system, you can quickly decipher what is worth your time and what isn’t, or read the full review for an in-depth analysis and explanation of the rating. The rating system uses ammunition and range terminology, so if you’re not familiar, here’s a quick breakdown of the ratings ...

- 1/4 — No Impact, No Idea

Horrendous. Among the worst of the worst in its genre. Dedicating time to this is not only wasteful, but unforgivable. Avoid at all costs.


- 2/4 — High And To The Right

Mediocrity at its best. Lacks a few things that might have made it really good. A decent time waster, partake only if you have nothing better to do.


- 3/4 — On Target

Praiseworthy. A great endeavor, not quite an instant classic but still very entertaining. This is a sound investment of your time.


- 4/4 — Confirmed Kill

Genius. In the top 10 percent of its genre. This is the stuff legends are made of. Missing out on it would be a disservice to yourself.



So, there you have it and we hope you enjoy our weekly reviews. Don't forget, The Hawaii Marine accepts submissions from its readers so if you consider yourself a film buff, music aficionado, gaming geek or bookworm, feel free to submit your own reviews.

Better Know A Critic



SAUTER

Cpl. James A. Sauter is a fan of the classic playwrights of William Shakespeare and the eerie gothic horror masterpieces of “Dracula”, “Frankenstein” and “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.” However, the book’s title and cover are the first things that he looks at before picking the book up. If those two elements can hold his attention long enough, he may consider reading it by his fireplace in a leather chair. No better way to read a story.



QIU

Grace Qiu is probably the only advocate for the end of the world. Addicted to apocalypses and dystopias, she immerses herself in fictional literature while singing along to indie rock. With a love for superheroes and flying cars, she believes the best movies trap you in the story even after you dazedly exit the theater, and the best books leave your perspective on life slightly shaken.

Exploring values of the warrior

Cpl. James A. Sauter

Combat Correspondent

Throughout mankind’s history, every generation had its own way of telling stories of warriors and heroes. Sun Tzu said the art of war is of vital importance to the state for its own survival. This importance has drawn the need for warriors gifted in the craft of violence and warfare.

As long as there have been warriors, people held the idea that certain qualities of character separate a good warrior from someone who is merely skilled at killing. This concept has been seen throughout the centuries in many martial cultures that range from western Spartans, Roman legionaries and Knights Templar to eastern Shaolin monks, samurai and ninjas.

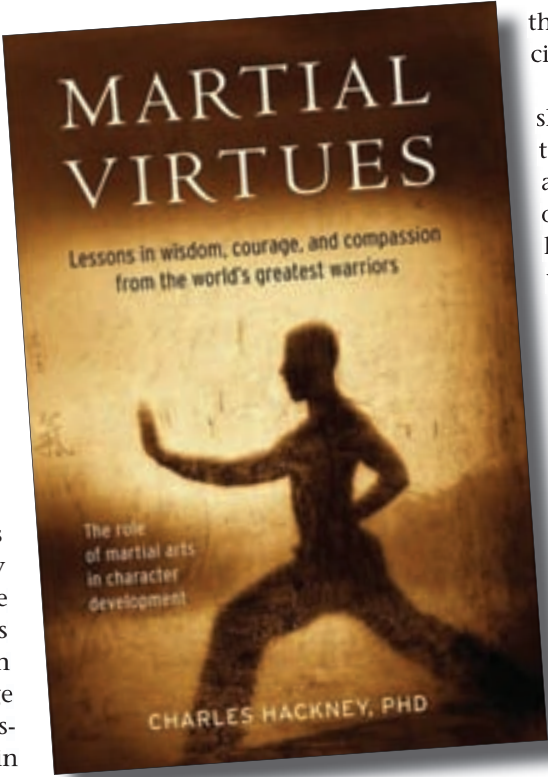
“Martial Values,” by Charles Hackney, compares these many cultures and finds common, if not fundamental, traits of courage, justice, temperance, wisdom, benevolence and courtesy. Modern day martial arts have a mutual relationship with these traits and dojos today promote not only skill in the physical techniques but also growth in these qualities.

Among the books I’ve read about what constitutes a

warrior, this one dives deep into warrior ethics. That’s what I like most about it. With the recent re-examination of ethics in the Marine Corps, I’ve endeavored to find out what it means to be a warrior and “Martial Values” was a good first step.

The book breaks each of the martial arts’ traits down into sections, its cultivation into people, and how it’s used in both violent and peaceful settings.

An example of a trait’s meaning and employment is found in the story of the 47 Japanese ronin, or masterless samurai. The ronin pledged to avenge their disgraced master and succeeded in killing his wrongdo-



er. They were caught and accepted the death penalty for their crime.

Though they broke the law, the Shogun credited their devout loyalty to their master and gave them honorable deaths by seppuku, a suicide ritual to regain one’s honor.

I’m not saying that people who murder should be given the right to seppuku, but the reader should understand the story and learn that justice was given instead of vengeance. This story is an example of how a fundamental quality and martial value were practiced in a familiar warrior culture.

“Martial Values” comes to the conclusion that martial arts are not something a person adapts into their life, but rather the opposite. It means changing one’s values, attitudes and behavior and not doing it as a hobby. I can only imagine what this book would discuss if it talked about the Marine Corps.



Going Bananas in the ‘Kitchen’

Grace Qiu

Contributing Writer

“No matter what, I want to continue living with the awareness that I will die. Without that, I am not alive.” It is a well-known fact that young people have a hormone-driven feeling of invincibility, so it’s not a surprise that “Kitchen” by Banana Yoshimoto slapped my ego across its clueless face. Most people don’t dwell on the fact that the last page in our lives lies in wait for the hands of fate to turn to it, especially not a teenager about to go to college.

Groundbreaking and unconventional — even by American, nonetheless Japanese, standards — this book turned my mind inside out. Mikage Sakurai is a college student in Japan. A quiet, reflective individual who grew up within the embrace of death, the story opens with her in a deep depression after her grandmother’s death. With her only remaining family member now deceased, she curls up in an achingly lonely apartment and clings to the one thing that never leaves her ... kitchens. And the strangeness begins.

As you turn the pages of this thin novella, you are pulled deeper and deeper into odd situations, from gender discrepancies and mystical meetings in

dreams, to a fight to the death in a bar. With vivid imagery and simplistic, yet meaningful writing, you begin to adopt Sakurai’s introverted and lonely view on the world.

While many may complain of a dry tongue because of the “bland” writing, I felt as though I was transplanted into the mind of a real person instead of being an outsider to a story I couldn’t touch. Hard to describe in words, this story invokes in you a juxtaposition of helplessness and empowerment. I can only credit how to Yoshimoto’s unique mind.


As a special bonus to this




already beautifully weird story, Yoshimoto tacks on a short story titled “Moonlight Shadow” at the end that left me unsuccessfully trying to suppress my tears in a crowded airport. It follows the stories of Satsuki and Hiiragi, a young woman and young man intertwined not by love, but by tragedy. Satsuki loses her lover, also Hiiragi’s brother, in a fatal car accident that also kills Hiiragi’s girlfriend, Yumiko. The inseparable group of four made up of two lively couples and the world seemed to grind to a halt for the ones left behind without a proper goodbye. You’ll close the book with a lingering image of an ethereal bridge, and the sound of a bittersweet bell ringing in your ears.

Approach this book with an open mind, and realize that you are about to read something that may leave you a little unsettled. Ending on an undefined note, Yoshimoto left me dazed and wanting more. It’s no wonder “Banana-mania” is taking the world by storm.





Prices: All shows are \$3.25 for adults and \$2.25 for children. For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.



- “Batman: Dark Knight Rises” PG-13 Today | 6:30 p.m.
- “Seeking a Friend for the End of the World” R Today | 9:45 p.m.
- “Batman: Dark Knight Rises” PG-13 Saturday | 6:30 p.m.
- “Magic Mike” R Saturday | 9:45 p.m.
- “Ice Age: Continental Drift” PG Sunday | 2 p.m.
- “People Like Us” PG-13 Sunday | 6:30 p.m.
- “Madea’s Witness Protection” PG-13 Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.

Pick a club, any club

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Several new clubs are enrolling members this fall at Youth Activities, to encourage free fun for participants of the Children, Youth and Teen Program.

The clubs cover a variety of interests, from gardening to working toward a healthy lifestyle. The CYTP members can join with parent permission by signing up with the 4-H program.

“Each club lasts only a month long,” said Pat Murphy, a recreational specialist with Youth Activities. “The clubs don’t require a major time commitment, just an hour and a half each session, held two times a week. We wanted something most kids could commit to and allow them to choose a president and officers for each club.”

Several of the Youth Activities’ participants initially suggested many of the club subjects, said Jeff Anderson, Youth Activities director. The clubs are held at different days and times so participants are welcome to join as many as they like.

“Teens showed interest and even requested that there be programs available to allow them to make snacks and learn how to take care of themselves, such as cooking and getting fit,” he said. “Many of our teens also showed great interest in our new materials available for making bracelets. Once the creative spark was ignited, we couldn’t help but feed the fire and create a club.”



Pat Murphy | Youth Activities

Youth volunteers help prepare the gardening area at the Youth Activities Center. The upcoming Gardening Club in one of many new clubs being offered at Youth Activities this fall. Other clubs include the Healthy Habits Club for nutrition and fitness and Creative Minds featuring oil painting and other art forms. To sign up for the new clubs, children must be Children, Youth and Teen Program members and signed up with the 4-H program at Youth Activities.

For those who want to be a part of the team to decide future subjects for clubs can join the 4-H Leadership/Torch Club. In addition to coming up with ideas for new clubs at Kaneohe Bay, they can also offer their input for field trips, community service projects and other events.

Some of the upcoming available clubs for Youth Activities are focused on academics, like the Diplomas to Degrees group, nicknamed D2D.

The club will begin meeting in October to help teens prepare and or-

ganize their post-high school plans. In the club, participants can learn about potential careers and visit local colleges.

Both Anderson and Murphy said Youth Activities is regularly evaluating which programs best capture youth interest and offering opportunities for them to participate.

The duo agreed the goal is to ensure members have fun and develop their future, whether by joining a club or taking part in various Youth Activities events.

“The clubs are really helpful,” Murphy said. “The kids get a basic understanding of the club’s topic. Their membership in a club could lead to a career in the future. Someone who may like gardening could go into landscaping or want to look at career in cooking from joining the club. These clubs teach skills for everyday life that members can take with them.”

For more information about the upcoming clubs, call 257-2030 or see <http://www.mccshawaii.com/youthactivities>.

Lt. Col.’s GOT A BRAND NEW BAG



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

(Left) Cmdr. Hillary Darby, executive officer, MALS-24, tries to pedal a tricycle backward in Hangar 375, Aug. 30. (Right) Seaman Gaetan Malutshi, logistics specialist, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, poses with Lt. Col. Edwin R. Rich, commanding officer, MALS-24. Rich and Darby rode around the inside of the hangar once forward, and again, pedaling backward. They also went to various offices of MALS-24 on base. For three weeks, Marines and sailors donated money for a fundraiser for the squadron. As an incentive to raise more money, the commanding officer offered to wear a dress in front of the squadron if the Marines and sailors raised at least \$2,500. If they raised \$3,000, the executive officer offered to wear a clown suit. The squadron raised more than \$3,000, and Rich and Darby honored their incentives. The squadron also held a drawing for several Marines and sailors.

Joint VA/DOL veterans retraining assistance program reaches milestone

News Release
Department of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON — More than 25,000 unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 have already applied for new benefits to cover education costs for up to one year through a joint Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Labor program that focuses on retraining up to 99,000 veterans for high-demand jobs.

“This important milestone demonstrates how meaningful this tool will be to help our nation’s unemployed veterans receive the education and training they need to find rewarding employment in a high-demand career field,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “Veterans realize this is a great opportunity to hone the skills they need to be competitive in the job market, and this program contributes directly to enhancing the strength of our nation’s economy.”

Forty-five thousand veterans can start receiving benefits during the current fiscal year. VA began accepting applications on May 15. A maximum of 54,000 billets will be available for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

“No veteran should have to fight for a job at home after fighting to protect our nation,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “This training program focused on high-demand jobs will help unemployed veterans expand their skills and compete for good jobs that need them,” she added.

As part of a provision of the Veterans Opportunity to Work to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, the Veteran Retraining Assistance Program allows qualifying veterans to receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill active duty rate, currently \$1,473 per month.

Veterans can apply now on a first come, first serve basis for VRAP. Unemployed veterans should act quickly and apply online to avoid missing out on this great opportunity. Assistance under this benefit program will end on March 31, 2014.

To complete the application, veterans must know their direct deposit information (bank routing number and account number), the name and location of the school they will attend, the program they wish to pursue, and the high-demand occupation they are working toward.

To qualify veterans must:

- Be 35-60 years old, unemployed on the day of application, and not dishonorably discharged;
- Start education or training after July 1, in a VA-approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school leading to an associate degree, non-college degree or a certificate for a high-demand occupation as defined by DOL;
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program, such as Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment;
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job-training program within the last 180 days;
- Not receive VA compensation at the 100 percent rate due to individual unemployability.

Upon completion, DOL will contact participants within 30 days after their training to help them find good jobs that use their newly learned skills.

“VA has many partners around the country who are helping us to spread the good news about this unique benefit, which provides our unemployed veterans with the opportunity to obtain the

skills they need to be competitive in the high-demand job market,” added Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

“It is encouraging that we have reached this milestone; however, there are still nearly 20,000 slots to fill by Sept. 30,” said Ismael “Junior” Ortiz, DOL’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Veterans Employment and Training Service. “It is critical to continue to spread the word about this program to unemployed veterans or those who may know an unemployed veteran,” Ortiz adds.

For more information on VOW, VRAP, the definition of “high-demand occupations,” and how to apply, veterans may go to the website at www.benefits.va.gov/VOW, or call VA’s Call Centers toll free at 1-800-827-1000. Veterans may also access the VRAP application online at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov> through eBenefits, a joint project of the Department of Defense and VA.

Veterans are also encouraged to visit the nearly 3,000 One-Stop Career Centers across the nation for assistance. To find the center near you visit <http://www.servicelocator.org>. For more information about the DOL’s veterans programs, go to <http://www.dol.gov/vets/>.